

I have had accounts on the Internet since the 1990s. I have never set up any to "initiate sexual interactions" but one which did had the username "Andrew Eccentric" on AOL Instant Messenger, my first ever social media account. Yes, many of you probably can't even remember that far back. I appeared there as entirely myself. It was the late 90s.

Lately, I have used the pseudonyms "Anarxista Goldman" and "Dionysia Exarchopoulos" in order to write books [which were all written entirely sincerely]. Several books, in fact, which contained far more words than any Twitter accounts I have ever used. I did not create these names "to initiate sexual interactions" nor were the names created for sexual purposes. [I cannot deny such activity took place on my accounts, however. It was far from just me who initiated it though.] "Anarxista Goldman", for example, had a Twitter account I was very ineptly attempting to delete and end this past week so that "she" could be forgotten. The account began as simply a name to use [with no thought out ideas about where to take it] in September 2020 but it developed beyond anything I could ever have imagined at that time. In short, it got out of hand. I concede that if I had known then where it would end up now I would not have continued with it.

You will be aware that millions of people post on the Internet using names that are not theirs. It is a regular thing. Many [not all] of these people may be described as malicious and are doing it either to hurt others or engage in financial gain. The practice of using pseudonyms also has a literary history which is perhaps less malicious [if still deceptive]. I admit to engaging in this practice. But I'd like to make it clear that my purpose was never malicious. The content of the many books I wrote in that time - amounting to thousands of pages of political, philosophical, historical and fictional writing - which have been my only activity in recent years are huge proof of this as no one would ever write such books to exploit anyone. They were, in short, sincere as were many other actions I undertook.

Honest people who interacted with me will, I hope, concede that interaction with me was not all bad. At least, that is what they were posting to Anarqxista's account this past week. I'd like to emphasise especially a few things: I never met, or attempted to meet, anyone as a result of using a pseudonym: I never attempted to extract money or financially exploit anyone; I had many types of conversations online and it is not the truth they were primarily sexual. I, in fact, simply deleted many sexual messages I got as I was not interested in them. The truth is that using the various pseudonyms I, like many others, have used, I engaged in many real, genuine, sincere and meaningful interactions too [albeit, admittedly, appearing with another face]. The old account "anarchagrrl", for example, went through many name changes for a lot of the time before I changed it to that name. On that account I first appeared as myself [using my face in the material world], interacting honestly and openly. But I hated "being me" so preferred to pretend.

The truth is that I am just a man who lives alone with his elderly mother, has had no real world friends for a decade [no, not one], has no money, no job and not much mental health, and who uses the Internet to interact with people to progress from one day to the next. I am in my room 23 hours a day, every day [the other I go for a walk]. I admit that I took things too far and fell into destructive habits. It is hard not to when suddenly you achieve a popularity you are entirely unused to and its easy to lose control. Yet I insist that I aimed to do no one any harm and never used the pseudonyms with malicious intent. I also, however, acknowledge that I encouraged people into thinking that I was the pseudonyms I portrayed and I bear responsibility for that. I am deeply sorry.

All I can do now is apologise to all who have been deceived about who they thought they were talking to and finally end this abusive activity. The accounts are deleted except one which is for sport. I am gut-wrenchingly sorry for any distress I have caused.        Andrew